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Newsletter of the Township Emergency Management Association

April 5, 2021

Big News! The Emergency Manager is Going Monthly!

We're committed to giving you timely information so we've updated *The Emergency Manager* and will now be emailing it monthly.

Look for quick bites about trending topics, new laws and bills, court cases, training, and other interesting stuff.

We'd love to hear what you think. Drop us an email at tema@psats.org or call TEMA Coordinator James Wheeler at (717) 763-0930, ext. 128.

Latest News

Spring Emergency Management Educational Forum Goes Virtual, Moves to New Dates

Although PSATS has canceled its 2021 Educational Conference and Exhibit Show, we are moving forward with many of the workshops, seminars, and forums.

All are going virtual, including the ***Spring Emergency Management Educational Forum***, which has been rescheduled to 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday and Thursday, April 21 and 22.

Those who registered for the in-person forum are automatically registered for the virtual forum. We're also accepting new registrations. Click [HERE](#) to sign up.

Townships Will Receive COVID Money in Two Installments

Townships will receive a share of the \$936 million that's being sent to Pennsylvania through the American Rescue Plan.

The state will distribute the funding – 50 percent will likely arrive in June, and the remainder 12 months later. Townships have until December 31, 2024, to spend the funds on the following:

- To respond to COVID-19 and assist impacted households, small businesses, non-profits, and industries, such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;
- To give premium pay to eligible local government workers who have been performing essential work during COVID-19 or provide grants to employers of eligible workers.
- To provide government services impacted by lost revenue since the onset of COVID-19; or
- To invest in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure. (**Note: Roads and bridges are not included.**)

The money cannot be used to support pension funds or provide direct tax cuts. To find out how much money your township will be receiving, go to psats.org and click on the COVID-19 page.

Learn

[Webinar - Implementing a Logical Addressing Scheme for New Construction - 4/7/21](#)

Learn when you should start assigning addresses to new construction in your community (Hint: It's sooner than you think!) The presenters will also help you identify easy addressing schemes for your municipality. Click [HERE](#) to register and learn more.



[Webinar - Fire and EMS - What Can We Do to Ensure Their Sustainability - 5/5/21](#)

Topics will include the different types of fire-related services that may be offered; the different components of EMS and how they are structured and operated; and how municipalities can help fire and EMS handle financial and operational issues. Click [HERE](#) to register and learn more.



[Virtual Class - Fire and EMS Issues in Your Township: A Panel Discussion - 5/3/21](#)

It's no secret that many townships are struggling to provide adequate fire and EMS services. This session will feature a panel of fire and EMS leaders who will discuss trends, best practices, and other public safety issues. Click [HERE](#) to register and learn more.



[Virtual Class - The Pros and Cons of Fire Department Stipend Programs - 5/3/21](#)

Attend this workshop to better understand stipend programs for fire departments. The presenter will discuss their implementation, successes and failures, and their relationship to regionalization. One community's experiences will be the centerpiece of this session. Click [HERE](#) to register and learn more.



[Virtual Class - Dealing with Constantly Changing Public Safety Challenges - 5/11/21](#)

2020 was a year of changing challenges for many communities, including Upper Merion Township. First came COVID, and then demonstrations. Riots, curfews, and a derecho also happened – all in eight months. Local officials will share the lessons learned during this eventful period of time. Click [HERE](#) to register and learn more.



Legislation & Policy

National Guard to Help with Vaccine Rollout

Lawmakers recently enacted Act 4 of 2021, which enlists the state National Guard to help speed up the state's rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Bills to Watch

- **License exemptions for service dogs** – Senate Bill 36 would nix licensing fees for service dogs who work with sheriffs' offices, fire departments, and rescue and EMS organizations.
- **Police, fire, and EMS medal program** – Senate Bill 158 would create a statewide medal program that recognizes bravery, sacrifice, or other exceptional conduct in the line of duty.
- **Firefighter tax exemptions** – Under Senate Bill 279, firefighters wouldn't have to pay sales or use taxes when using their own money to buy protective gear and communications equipment.
- **First responder tuition assistance program** – House Bill 612 would authorize tuition assistance for active volunteers who meet certain criteria.

TEMA Q&A

What is the deadline for 501(c)(3) emergency management and responder organizations to apply for FEMA's 2021 Nonprofit Security Grant Program?

Eligible fire and ambulance services have until April 20 to apply for the funding,

which supports non-profits at high risk for a terrorist attack. The grants also promote emergency preparedness coordination and collaboration among public and private organizations and state and local governments. Click [HERE](#) for information.

Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

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